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THE
Cheshire Prophecy.

WITH
Historical *and* Political
REMARKS.



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THE
CHESHIRE
PROPHECY.

I HAD no Opinion of Prophecies from the Time of the miscarrying of Doctor Eames's, till the Famous *Windsor Prophecy*, suppos'd to be written by the Pious Dr. S—, or his Excellency Mr. P—. Bating the Obscenity and Scandal of it, which are very Enormous, the Prophet has come off pretty well, and has taken the Right Method for it. He Prophecy'd of nothing but
A what

what was come to pass, or was so
 Mystical that he might Interpret it
 Ten or a Dozen Ways at Pleasure,
 and each of 'em be one as right as
 the other. As to the Credit of the
 following Prophecy, I dare say it is
 as well attested as any of *Nostrada-*
mus's, and has come to pass as well
 as the best of Esquire *Bickerstaff's*,
 the latter, the greatest Prophet
 of the Last Century. Now, I
 wou'd not have any Body Laugh
 at it meerly because 'tis a Prophe-
 sy. Some Ungodly People think
 there has been no Witch since the
 Witch of *Endor*, nor no Prophet
 since *Malachy*, but it is plain e-
 nough, that Great Men have in
 all Ages had recourse to Prophecy
 as well as the Vulgar. Fortune-
 telling is in the Low kind of Pro-
 phesy, and yet those Minor Pro-
 phets, the Fortune-tellers, have
 many

many Advocates to argue, and, if you please, to prove the Truth and Importance of their Predictions. Not to give Instances out of ancient History of the Wonders perform'd by *English, Scots, Irish* Prophets; the most Modern Story furnishes us with Examples of the greatest Monarchs that have receiv'd Comfort from the Art of *Sooth-saying*. A Neighbouring Potentate has given Private Audience in his Cabinet to a *French* Prophet, not a Hugonot, but a Catholick one, and what he said is not known to this Day. The *Cheshire* Prophecy has so many Oddnesses in it, that I'm sure the Reader will be glad to see a thing which is as well known in that County *Palatine* as Mother *Shipton's* in *Yorkshire*. We do not indeed deliver it in Verse as the Old Oracles

were, when the Prophets and Poets were all one Trade, and *Vates* was a common Name for both ; but the Simplicity, the Circumstances and History of it are so Remarkable, that I cou'd not help communicating it to the Publick, who, I hope, will be as much delighted with it as I was my self. By the way, this is not a Prophecy of to Day, 'tis as Old as *Oliver*, and the Story will make it appear, that there is as little Imposture in it as the *Jacobites* pretend there is in the Person it seems to have an Eye to ; but whether they are both Impostures alike or not, I leave it to the Reader, and give him the *Prophecy* in the Phrase of the Original as follows :

There

' There liv'd in former Times
 ' a Fool, whose Name was *Nixon*;
 ' He was kept in the Family of the
 ' *Cholmondeley's* of *Vale-Royal* in *Che-*
 ' *shire*. One Day he came from
 ' Plough in the Field, and laying
 ' down the Things he had in his
 ' Hand he remain'd a little while
 ' in the Dumps, and then with a
 ' Hoarse Voice said, *Now I'll*
 ' **PROPPHESI.**

THE

There is a former Times
a Fool, whose Name was *Vixen*
He was born in the Family of the

Cholmondeley's of *Nile-Ford* in *Cheshire*. One Day he came from
brought in the field, and laying
down the things he had in his
hand he was killed while
in the Ditches, and then with a

THE PROPHECY.

When a Raven shall build in a Lyons Mouth, then a King of England shall be driven out of his Kingdom and never Return, and an Heir shall be born to the *Cholmondeley's* Family; an Eagle shall then sit on the Top of the House, and this Heir shall live to see *England* invaded by Foreigners, who shall come as far as *Delamere Forrest* in *Cheshire*, but a Miller, nam'd *Peter*, shall be born with two Heels on one Foot, and shall at that Time be living in a Mill near Mr. *Cholmondeley's*, and shall be Instrumental in delivering the Nation; a Boy shall be born with three Thumbs, and shall hold three King's Horses, while
Eng-

England shall three times be Won, and Lost in one Day. The Invader shall be kill'd, and laid across a Horse's Back like a Calf; the Miller shall be knighted by the Victorious Prince, and after that *England* shall see Happy Days, and Men of Valour, Virtue and Merit shall again Prosper. As a Token of the Truth of these Things, the Wall of Esquire *Cholmondeley's* House, towards the Pond, shall fall, and if it fall downwards the Church shall be oppress'd, but if upwards, against the rising Hill on the side of it, it shall flourish again, and the Bones of a *British* King shall be found under it; the Pond shall run with Blood three Days, and the Stone Cross Pillar in the Forest sink so low into the Ground, that a Crow from the top of it may Drink of the best Blood in *England*.

This is not all of it; the Original, in good *Cheshire* Dogrel, may be seen in several Families in that County, with many other Particulars, as that *Peckforton* Wind-Mill shou'd be remov'd to *Ludditon* Hill; that there shou'd be so great a Slaughter

Slaughter of Men, that Horses Saddled shou'd run about till their Girths rotted away, &c. But this is sufficient to prove Nixon as good a Prophet as Partridge, and we shall give other Proofs of it before we have done with him.

I know your Prophets are generally for Raw Head and Bloody Bones; and therefore don't mind it much; or I might add, that Olton Mill shall be driven with Blood instead of Element. But these Sooth-Sayers are great Butchers, and every Hall is with them a Slaughter-House.

Now as for Authorities to prove this Prophecy to be Genuine, and how it has been hitherto accomplish'd, I might refer my self to the whole County of Cheshire, where 'tis in every ones Mouth, and has been so these Forty Years. As much as I have of the Manuscript was sent me by a Man of Sence and Veracity, as little given to Visions as any Body: For my own Part, I build nothing on this or any other Prophecy, only there is something so very odd in the Story, and so pat in the wording of it that I cannot help giving it as I found it.

The

The Family of the Cholmondeley's is very ancient in this County, and takes its Name from a Place so call'd near Nantwich; there are also Cholmton and Cholmondeston; but the Seat of that Branch of the Family, which kept our Prophet Nixon, is at Vale-Royal, on the River Wever in Delamere Forest. 'Twas formerly an Abbey, founded by Edward I. and came to the Cholmondeleys from the famous Family of the Holcrofts. When Nixon prophesj'd, this Family was without an Heir, but Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq; marrying the Daughter of Sir Walter St John, had by her a Son. Mrs. Cholmondeley being with Child and falling in Labour continu'd so for some Days, during all which time an Eagle sat on the House-Top and flew away when she was deliver'd, as will be further mention'd. A Raven is also known to have built in a Stone Lyons Mouth in the Steeple of the Church of Over in the Forest of Delamere; not long before the Abdication of King James, the Wall spoken of fell down, and fell upwards, and in removing the Rubbish, were found the Bones of a Man of a more than ordinary size; the Pond at the same time

ran with Water that had a reddish Tinture, and was never known to have done so before nor since; Headless Cross in the Forest, which in the Memory of Man was several Foot high, is now sunk within half a Foot of the Ground. In the Parish of Budworth, a Boy was Born about Eighteen Years ago with Three Thumbs, the Youth is still living there, and the Miller Peter lives in Nogginshire Mills, in expectation of fulfilling this Prophecy on the Person of Perkin; he has also Two Heels on one Foot, but I find he does not intend to make use of them, for he's a bold Britain, and a Loyal Subject to Queen Anne, zealous for the Protestant Succession in the Illustrious House of Hanover, has a Vote for the Knights of the Shire, and never fails to give it on the Right Side; in a word, Peter will Prate or Box for the good Cause that Nixon has listed him in, and if he does not do the Business, this must be said of him, that no Man will bid fairer for it; which the Lady E——n was so apprehensive of, that wishing well to another Restauration, she often instigated her Husband to turn him out of the Mill, but he took'd upon it as a Whimsy,

and

and so Peter still continues there, in hopes of being as good a Knight as Sir P—p his Landlord was.

Of this Peter I have been told that the Lady Norris of Chelsea, and the Lady St. John of Batersea have often been heard to talk, and that they both asserted the Truth of our Prophecy and its Accomplishment, with Particulars, which are more extraordinary than any I have yet mention'd. That the King then Reigning hearing of Nixon's Predictions, wou'd needs see him. The Fool cry'd and howl'd and wou'd not be perswaded to go to Court, saying, He shou'd be Starv'd if he did ; A very whimsical Fancy of his : Courts are not the Places where People use to Starve in, when they once come there, whatever they did before. The King being inform'd of Nixon's refusing to come, said he wou'd take particular care that he shou'd not be Starv'd, and order'd him to be brought up ; Nixon cry'd out he was sent for again, and soon after the Messenger arriv'd, who brought him up from Cheshire. How, or whether he prophesy'd to his Majesty no Body can tell, but he is not the

first Fool that has made a good Court Prophet. That Nixon might be well provided for, 'twas order'd he should be kept in the Kitchen, where he grew so troublesome in licking and picking the Meat, that the Cooks lockt him up in a Hole, and the Court being to remove that Afternoon, in the hurry, they forgot the Fool, and he was really Starv'd there.

There are a great many Passages of this Fool-Prophets Life and Sayings transmitted by Tradition from Father to Son in this Connty Palatine, as that when he liv'd with a Farmer before he was taken into Mr. Cholmondeley's Family, he goar'd an Ox so cruelly, that one of the Ploughmen threatn'd to beat him for abusing his Master's Beast so, Nixon said; My Master's Beast will not be his this Three Days: A Life in an Estate dropping in that time, the Lord of the Mannour took the same Ox for a Herriot. This Account, as Whimsical and Romantick as it is, was told to the Lady Cooper in the Year 1670, by Dr. Patrick, late Bishop of Ely, then Chaplain to Sir Walter St. John, and that Lady had the following further Particulars relating to this Prophecy, and the fulfilling

fulfilling of many Parts of it, from Mrs. Chute, Sister to Mrs. Cholmondeley of Vale-Royal.

That a Multitude of People gathering together to see the Eagle before mention'd, the Bird was frighten'd, that she herself was one of them, and that every one cry'd, Nixon's Prophecy is fulfill'd, and we shall have a Foreign King. That She read it in Manuscript at large, and that the Manuscript was still in the Family. She particularly remember'd that King James was plainly pointed at, and that it was foretold he shou'd endeavour to subvert the Laws and Religion of this Kingdom, for which Reason they wou'd rise and turn him out. That the Eagle, of which Nixon prophesy'd, perch'd on one of the Windows all the time her Sister was in Labour, she said it was the biggest Bird she ever saw, that it was in a great Snow, and that it perch'd on the edge of a large Bow-Window, which had a large Border on the out-side, and that she and many others open'd the Window to try to scare it away, but it wou'd not stir till Mrs. Cholmondeley was deliver'd; after which it took a flight to a great Tree
over

over against the Room her Sister lay in, where having staid about Three Days it flew away in the Night. She affirm'd farther to the Lady Cooper, that the falling of the Garden Wall was a thing not to be question'd, it being in so many Peoples Memory; that it was foretold that the Heir of Vale-Royal, who was then Born, shou'd live to see England invaded by Foreigners, and that he shou'd fight bravely for his Prince and his Country; she thought there were to be Two Invaders, the one from the West, the other from the North, that he from the North shou'd bring with him of all Nations, Swedes, Danes, Germans and Dutch, that many Battles shou'd be fought, and the last of all be in Delamere Forrest in Cheshire; that the Heir of Oulton shou'd Suffer grievously. That the whole Bent of his Prophecy was to excite People to stand up in that Day for the Laws and Liberties of England, since great Ruin and Misery shou'd befall those that wou'd betray them. He said the Dispute shou'd last Three Years, the first Moderate, the second Bloody, the third Intolerable, but that

that George, the Son of George, shou'd put an End to all. That afterwards the Church shou'd Flourish, and England be the most glorious Nation upon the Earth. The same Lady Cooper was not content to take these Particulars from Mrs. Chute, she enquir'd of Sir Thomas Aston of Alton of the Truth of this Prophecy, and he attested it was in great Reputation in Cheshire, and that the Facts were known by every one to have happen'd as Nixon said they wou'd; adding, that the Morning before the Garden Wall fell, his Neighbour Mr. Cholmondeley going to ride out a Hunting, said as he past by it, Nixon seldom fail'd, but now I think he will, for he foretold that this Day my Garden Wall wou'd fall, and I think it looks as if it wou'd stand these Forty Years: That he had not been gone a quarter of an Hour before the Wall split and fell Upwards against the rising of the Hill, which, as Nixon wou'd have it, was a Presage of a Flourishing Church. As to the removal of Peckforton-Mill, it was done by Sir John Crew, the Mill having lost its Trade there, for which he order'd it
to

to be set up on Ludditon-Hill ; and being ask'd if he did it to fulfil the Prophecy, he declar'd he never thought of it. I my self have enquir'd of a Person who knows Mr. Cholmondeley's Pond as well as Rosamond's, and he assur'd me the falling of the Wall, and the Ponds running Blood, as they call it, are Things which a Man would be reckon'd a Madman if he did not believe in Cheshire. There are abundance of other Particulars in it, and few of 'em remains unfulfill'd ; but the holding of the Three Kings Horses, and the Miller's Knighthood, when that will be, we want another Cheshire Prophet to tell us ; And when it comes to pass, some other Circumstances may be added to Nixon's Prophecy, which are not convenient to be told till they be accomplish'd.

If I had a mind to look into the Antiquities of this County, I might find that Prodigies and Prophecies are no unusual Things there. Camden tells us, that at Brereton, not many Miles from Vale Royal, which gave Name to a Famous Ancient, Numerous and Knightly Family, there

there is a Thing as strange as the Perching of the Eagle or the falling of the Wall, which he says was attested to him by many Persons, and was commonly believ'd. Before any Heir of this Family dies, there are seen in a Lake adjoining the Bodies of Trees swimming upon the Water for several Days together. He adds, That near the Abbey of St. Maurice in Burgundy, there is a Fish-Pond, in which a number of Fishes are put equal to the number of Monks of that Place; and if any one of them happens to be Sick, there is a Fish seen floating on the Water too, and in case the fit of Sicknes proves fatal to the Monk, the Fish foretels it by his own Death some days before. This the Learned Camden tells us in his Description of Cheshire, and the Opinion of the Trees swimming in the Lake near Brereton prevails all about the Country to this Day, only with this difference, that some say 'tis one Log that swims, and some say many. Lancashire, which is not far off, has been famous for Witches, and I am afraid Cheshire is a little infected by

by its Neighbourhood. Those that will
not believe our Prophecy, may let it alone :
If Hope is a good help to Faith, I shall
not long be among the Incredulous.

FINIS.

